EAST BAY EXPRESS

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 3, 2015 | THE ... WEEKLY SINCE 1978 | EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM





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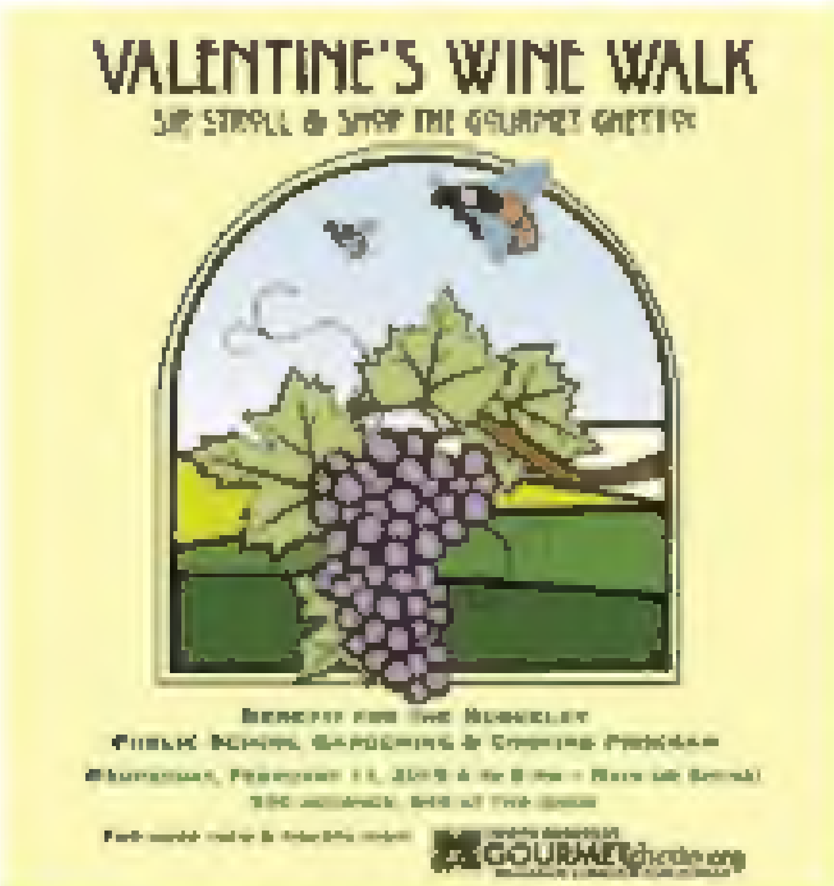
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On the Cover



EAST BAY EXPRESS

EDITORIAL

BUSINESS

ADVERTISING

ART & PRODUCTION

CIRCULATION


GRAY is just our
BACKDROP
SEATTLE MUSEUM MONTH
Museums are half price in February
Seattle is always vibrant, even under gray skies. Stay at downtown hotels this February and explore the city's rich art, culture and history for half price.
SeattleMuseumMonth.com
VISIT
seattle


shop local
rockridge
An exciting place with many things to come!
RockridgeDistrict.com
Elizabeth H
Strahan Insurance
Cole Hardware
COLE HARDWARE
Cole, Hardware for the soul.
DHR Investment Counsel
Curves of Rockridge
Curves
SHOP
DINE
STROLL

NEWS&OPINION



LETTERS

Thanks for the Education

[illegible]

We Need a Unified Effort for 2016

[illegible]

Brown Is a Fleece Artist

[illegible]

Brown Cares Most About His Image

[illegible]

Angie Ray, Oakland

Um, Have You Heard of Social Media?

I think Hoven found out the hard way the dangers of just shutting your doors one day, not making an announcement, not posting a sign up, and not updating your website. There's this great thing called social media. It's a great tool to build buzz and excitement around a temporary closure instead of FUD ("Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt").

[illegible]

3Girls Theatre, Too

3Girls Theatre is another (new) local company working on this problem. Their whole mission revolves around putting work by women onstage.

[illegible]

I Doubt Schaaf Can Turn Things Around

[illegible]

Corrections

[illegible]

SEVEN DAYS

BART Should Drop $70,000 Fine

Nonviolent demonstrators shouldn't have to pay a fine for exercising their First Amendment rights. Plus, California should stop pandering to the anti-vaccination crowd.

By Robert Gammon

The decision by BART General Manager Grace Crunican to push for a $70,000 fine against the #BlackLivesMatter demonstrators who shut down the West Oakland BART station on Black Friday was a mistake. Crunican and BART officials claimed that the transit agency lost $70,000 in revenue because of the demonstration. However, Crunican and the BART board of directors now seem to be backing away from the fine request. And they should — not only because the Black Friday demonstration was a model for nonviolent protest, but also because BART, over the years, has repeatedly ignored the needs of black and low-income residents in the region.

The demonstration was organized by members of the BlackOUT Collective, and it consisted of African-American protesters chaining themselves, arm-in-arm, to a BART train at the West Oakland station on November 28. The protest was designed to bring further attention to the national problem of police officers shooting and killing black people and the disturbing lack of police accountability in the United States.

The BlackOUT Collective's protest was entirely peaceful and served as an important contrast to the continued late-night demonstrations in Oakland in which groups of mostly white anarchists have smashed windows and looted stores. In fact, we called the Black Friday demonstration the "most effective act of civil disobedience in the East Bay since the Ferguson [Missouri] grand jury verdict."

But then BART officials overreacted. Not only did they push for criminal charges against fourteen black demonstrators, but also asked District Attorney Nancy O'Malley to seek a $70,000 fine against them. Not surprisingly, the fine request sparked outrage among political activists and spurred even more protests against BART. The idea that fourteen peaceful demonstrators would be required to pay $5,000 each clearly struck a nerve. It would have been like requiring civil rights demonstrators in the Sixties to pay restitution for a bus boycott.

BART's reaction, however, was in keeping with its historic disdain for low-income communities. The BART line, itself, ripped apart the predominantly black West Oakland neighborhood when it was built in the Fifties and early Seventies. And it did so mostly for the benefit of wealthy businesses and corporations in downtown San Francisco. As the *Express* noted in a 2013 report, large San Francisco property owners and companies have profited greatly over the years thanks to BART, while being mostly exempt from having to pay for a system that not only has increased their land values, but also delivers workers to them daily (see "BART's Big Gift to Wealthy Corporations," 7/3/13).

Late last week, BART board member Rebecca Saltzman, who represents North Oakland and Berkeley, pushed for a proposal that would ask O'Malley to drop the $70,000 fine against the black protesters. Board member Robert Raburn, who represents downtown and East Oakland, also voiced support for the plan. The BART board is scheduled to take up the measure at its next meeting, and it would be smart to approve it unanimously.

End the Vaccine Exemption

As the measles outbreak in California continues to spread — the number of reported cases reached 73 on Monday — it's becoming increasingly clear that the state should end its so-called "personal belief" exemption for childhood vaccines. Currently, California is one of about twenty states in the nation in which parents can use the personal belief waiver. Most states only permit medical or religious exemptions for childhood vaccines.

For the measles vaccine to be effective for everyone, about 92 percent of the population needs to be have been fully vaccinated. But because of the personal belief waiver and the anti-vaccination movement, many communities in California fall well short of the 92 percent threshold. As a result, the measles, once thought to have been eradicated, has come roaring back to life.

But the anti-vax crowd shouldn't have the right to endanger the health of the rest of us. The movement, which fears a link between childhood vaccines and autism, gained traction during the Aughts, following the revelation that the federal government had ordered the removal of the mercury-based preservative thimerosal from vaccines. Thimerosal had been used widely since the 1930s, and a study in the late 1990s claimed to have uncovered a link between the preservative and the rise of autism nationwide. That study has since been widely discredited. Moreover, thimerosal is no longer used in vaccines for children six and under (except for some flu vaccines).

As such, there is no longer a basis for the personal belief exemption in California. New York City doesn't have it, and only 0.1 percent of public school students there have been exempted from vaccines, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. In California, wealthy parents who send their kids to private schools appear to be especially prone to using the exemption. For example, according to the *LA Times*, at the Berkeley Rose private school, the parents of 87 percent of kindergarteners in 2014 used it.

That's not only dangerous, it's disturbingly anti-science. Measles is a serious disease with serious consequences. And vaccines work — if they're widely used. California, in other words, should stop pandering to the anti-vax crowd.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

LEGALIZATION NATION

2016 Is Closer Than You Think

Plus, why voter apathy saved reformers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

By David Downs

California activists are hoping to reverse 97 years of cannabis prohibition in the Golden State within the next 630 days. But that's not very much time.

With a statewide vote to legalize marijuana likely to make the November 2016 ballot, key deadlines are looming for writing and filing a proposed law, collecting hundreds of thousands of signatures, submitting those signatures to get on the ballot, and then running a winning campaign.

Multiple reform groups will try to run this gantlet. History says nearly all of them will fail. Here's how to best judge an initiative's progress:

July 7, 2015

The California Secretary of State's Office suggests July 7th as the last day to submit a measure to the state attorney general and request an official title and summary. Hitting this deadline is a sign of seriousness. It also means that reform groups have only about 100 days to draft a bill, poll voters about it, and refine the text of what would be a historic law. If reformers fail to fully lock their ballot language during the next weeks and months, it's game over before it even starts.

"It is very soon — that's part of my concern," said Dale Sky Jones, chair of ReformCA, a broad coalition that has been growing since Proposition 19 failed in 2010, and includes California NORML and the NAACP.

"We want to pass the most ambitious and possible law out there, but one word in the title can mess up everything," said Jim Gonzalez, political strategist for ReformCA.

August 1, 2015

"We get the first real sense of campaign fundraising in August, when electronic campaign finance reports become available for the reporting period of January through June 30 (due by July 31). Leading groups ReformCA, Marijuana Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance, and others must show fundraising momentum to pay for signatures, staff, and ads.

"Early money is like yeast — it makes the bread rise," said Jones. "It is the most important money."

A winning initiative campaign could cost a half a million dollars just for paid signature gatherers (volunteers can't do it). It'll cost another $10 million for full campaign operations and advertising without major opposition. With opposition, the price could go to $15 million to $20 million. There are more no single reform group can lose.

September 10, 2015

A well-oiled, on-time campaign should kick off its signature gathering before Labor Day.

Campaigns have 180 days from the day Attorney General Kamala Harris issues her title and summary to collect the necessary signatures. Collecting signatures has never been easier, though, said Joe Trippi, veteran campaign manager for Howard Dean and Jerry Brown, who is also working with ReformCA.

The number of valid signatures needed to qualify an initiative is equal to at least 5 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the last gubernatorial election. Luckily for pot-law reformers, the 2014 California election had one of the lowest voter turnouts of all time — the worst since 1978. Just 7.3 million — or 42.2 percent of California's eligible voters — voted. In the 2010 governor's race, by contrast, 10 million voters cast ballots.

That means activists have to get 365,880 valid signatures for the 2016 election, rather than hundreds of thousands more. With signatures costing about $1 each to gather, voter apathy in 2014 just made pot legalization several hundred thousand dollars cheaper. "It's ridiculous," Trippi said. "There's almost no barrier [to getting onto the ballot]. I've been working in the state since 1975, and I've never seen it like this."

March 8, 2016

A symbolic date for any serious campaign — This is the day the secretary of state suggests having all signatures turned in. Counties will validate a random sample of submitted names, and if the number of estimated valid signatures is too low, counties will conduct a lengthy "full check" of every signature. A "full check" adds weeks to the process, potentially disqualifying a measure for the 2016 ballot.

The last possible day for late-running campaigns to file signatures is May 13.

June 27, 2016

The last possible day for county elections to verify and certify a random sample or full check of signatures to the secretary of state. After that, it's a multimillion-dollar sprint to Election Day.

August 1, 2016

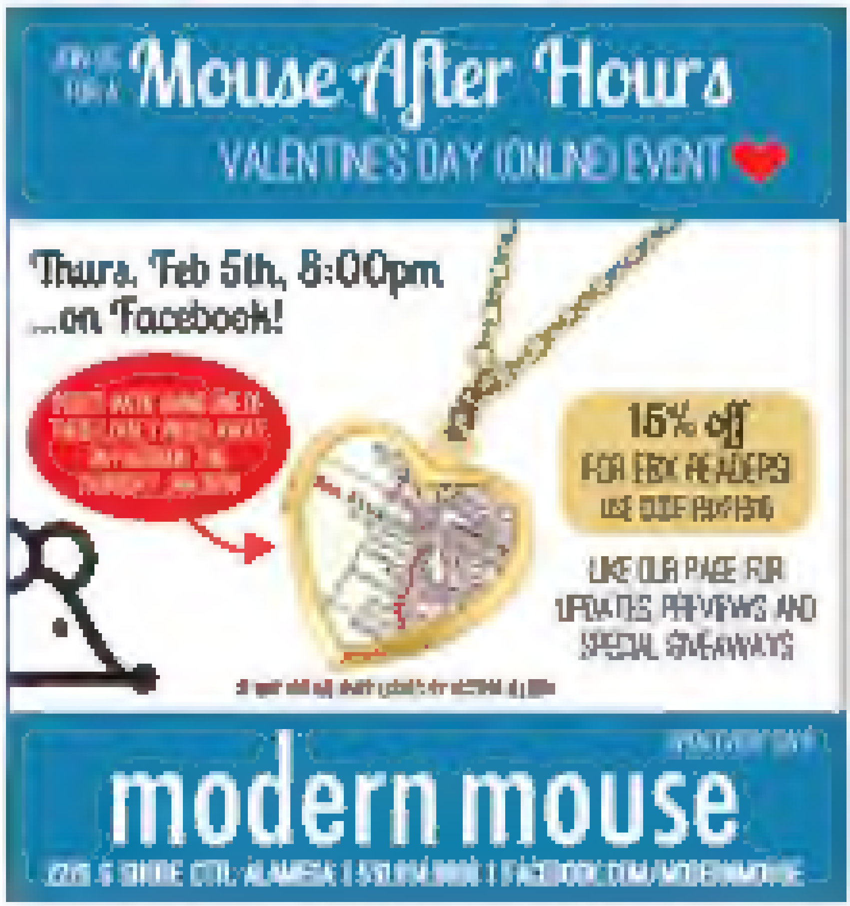
Pivotal campaign finance reports for the first half of 2016 are published online. A serious campaign needs to report millions of dollars in donations at this point to demonstrate an ability to fight off negative advertising during the fall.

"I say, 'Set up for success and prepare for the worst,'" said Sky Jones. "If you're ready for a downpour, the worst that happens is you have a sunhat for another day. I'm not going to be caught with just a parasol."

David.Downs@sfgate.com


International
CANNABIS
BUSINESS CONFERENCE
HYATT REGENCY • SAN FRANCISCO
FEBRUARY 15 & 16, 2015
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EXHIBITORS
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POLITICS


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Thurs, Feb 5th, 8:00pm
...on Facebook!
15% off
FOR EBX READERS!
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UPDATES, PREVIEWS AND
SPECIAL GIVEAWAYS
modern mouse

NEWS

Money for Jails, Not Services

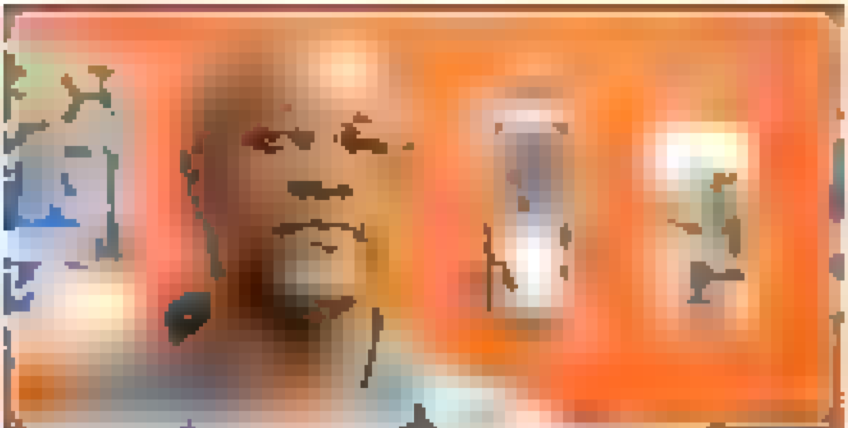
Alameda County continues to invest heavily in jail cells while failing to put public safety funds toward critical social services for the formerly incarcerated.

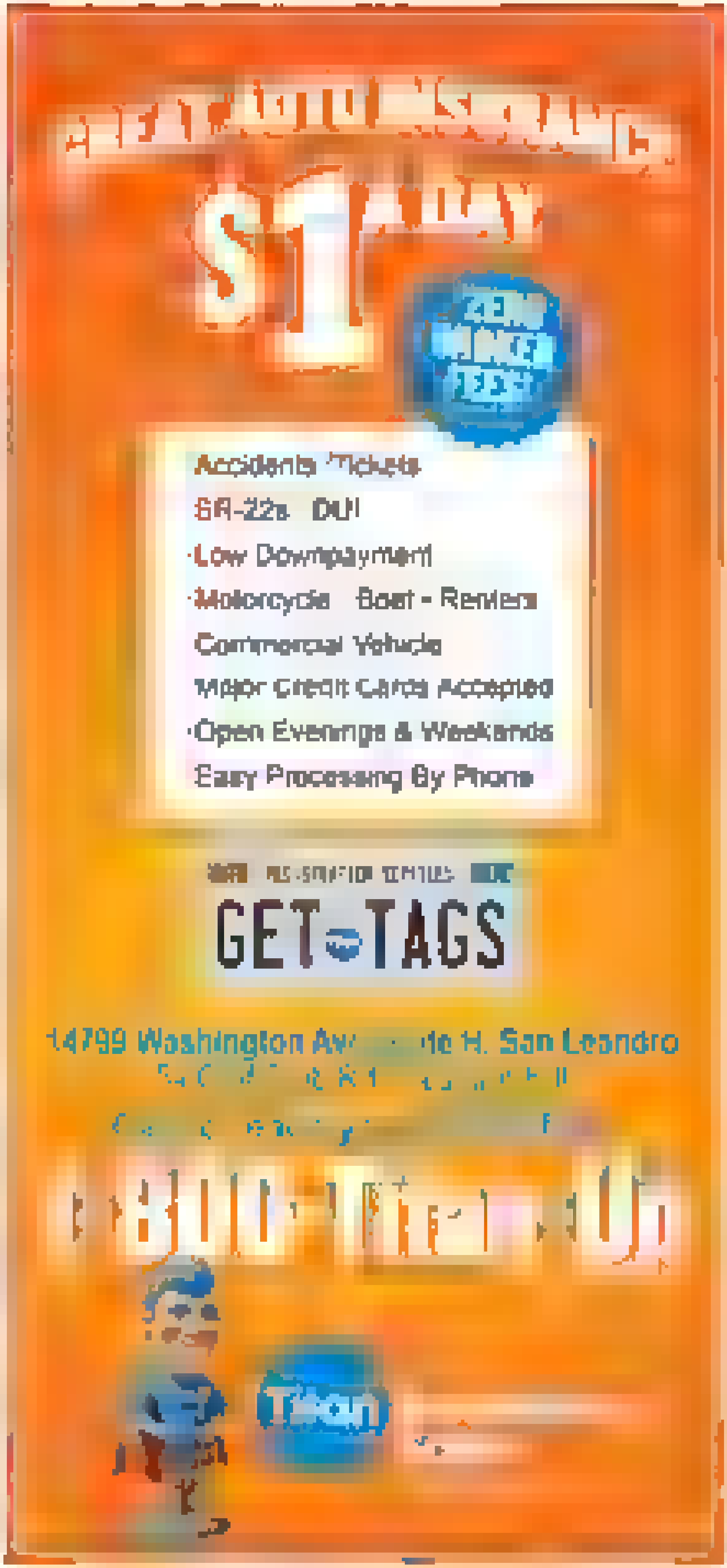
By Sam Levin

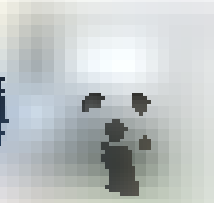

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What Goes Around
Comes Around - and Around - and
That's our work.
URBAN ORE

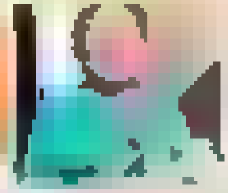

GOOD LOCAL MONEY
GOOD LOCAL BUSINESS
PROSPERITY
LOANS
MISSION
Social Impact
Crowdfunding
GOOD LOCAL MONEY FOR YOUR
GOOD LOCAL BUSINESS GUIDE
Publish date:
February 11, 2015
EAST BAY EXPRESS
oakland grown




Accidents Tickets
SR-22s DUI
Low Downpayment
Motorcycle Boat Renters
Commercial Vehicle
Major Credit Cards Accepted
Open Evenings & Weekends
Easy Processing By Phone
GET-TAGS

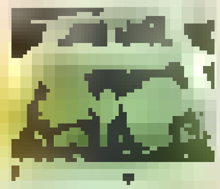



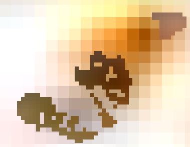








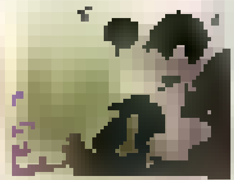



















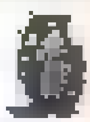


















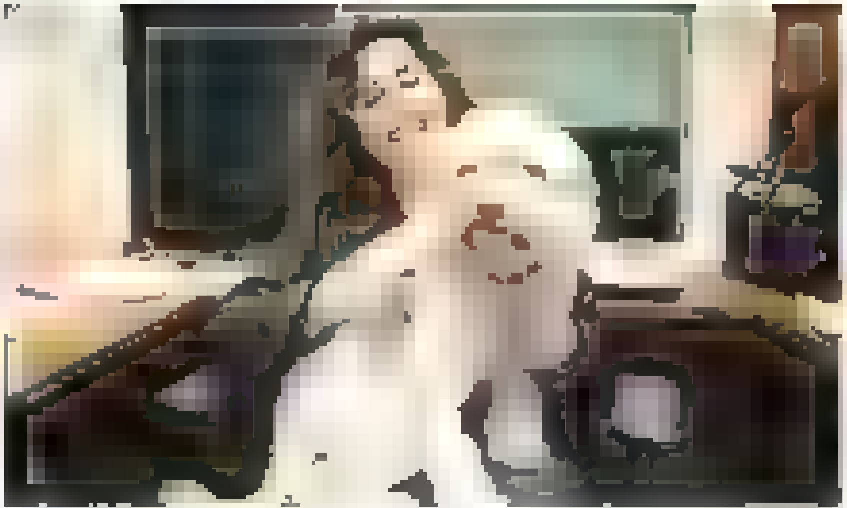


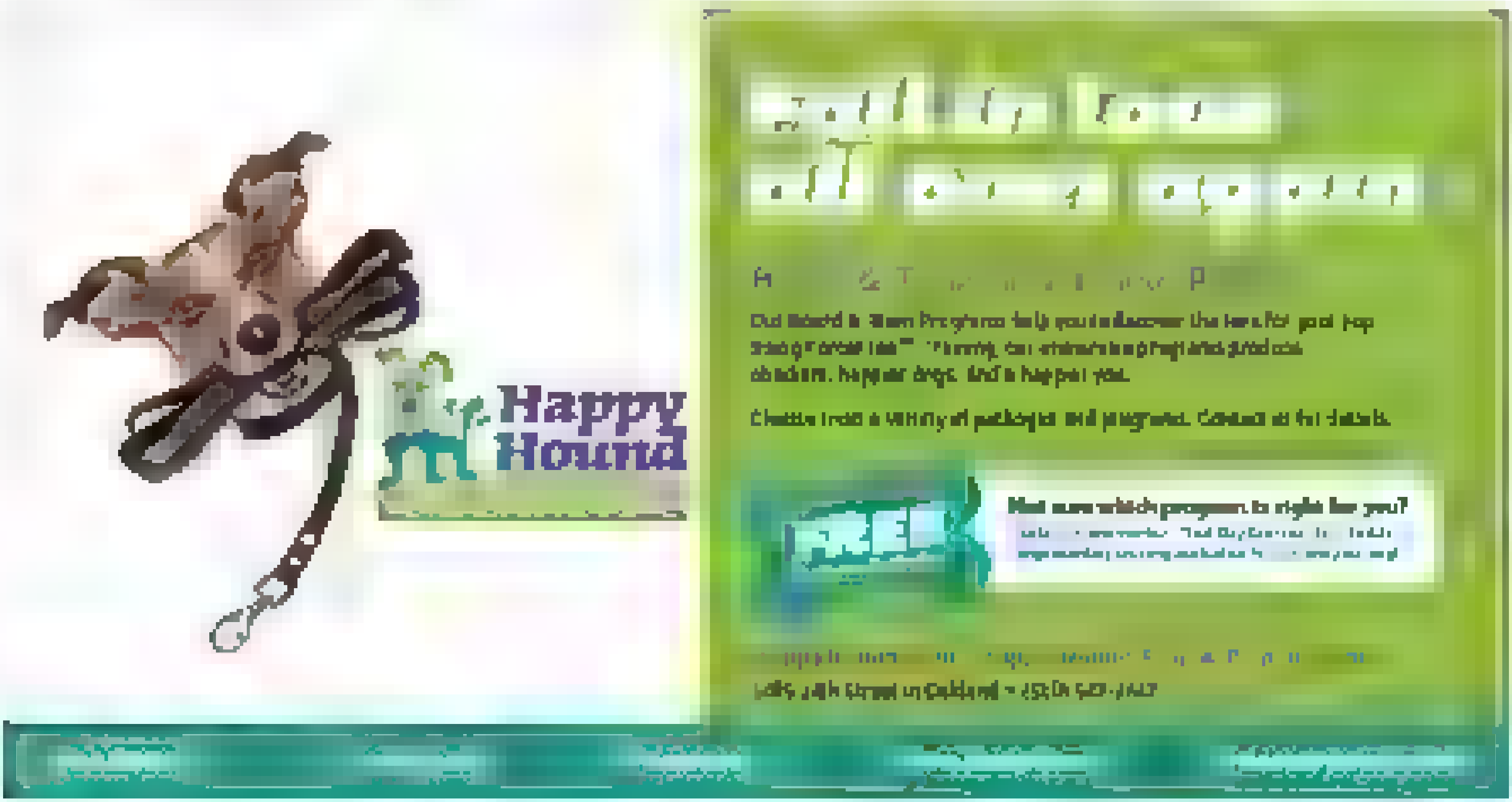
A New Age for Sheltering in Oakland

Rebecca Katz, Oakland Animal Services' new director, hopes to overhaul the agency and curb unnecessary deaths — and she's partnering with vocal city critics to make it happen.

By Sam Levin

W[illegible]




Happy
Hound

Slow Food for Felines





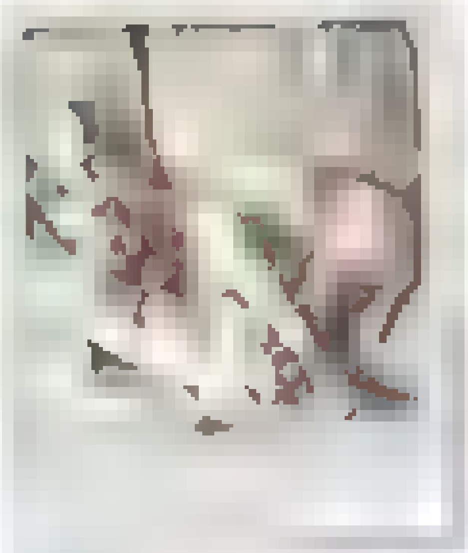
Thank You!

pets

2015 was a remarkable year for pet photo submissions.

Our readers have AMAZING pets!







The voting shows: We have a 3 way tie for 1st place winners!





And another tie for 2nd place!

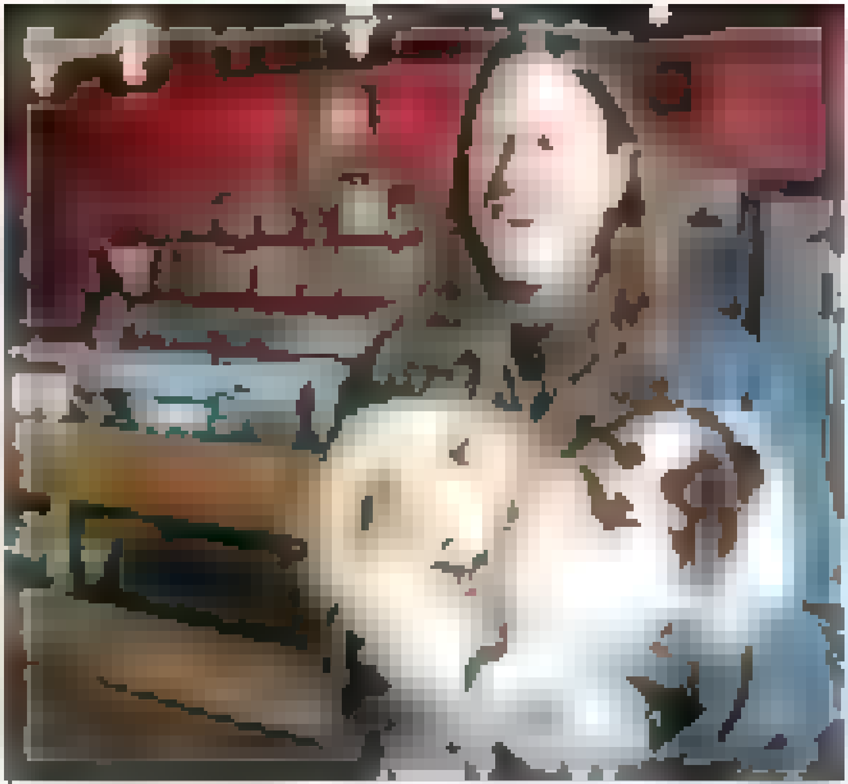
Check our Facebook to see all of the submissions.

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Store Fixtures

East Bay book and record stores are flush with distinctive cats and dogs — along with the memories of their predecessors.

By Sam Lefebvre



FIND THE EXPRESS

The Express is delivered to over 700 of locations throughout the East Bay on Wednesdays, including:

ALAMEDA

ALBANY

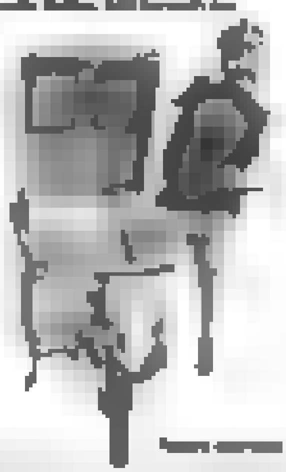
BERKELEY

EMERYVILLE

OAKLAND

RICHMOND/EL CERRITO

SAN LEANDRO



Berkeley Becomes Grumpytown

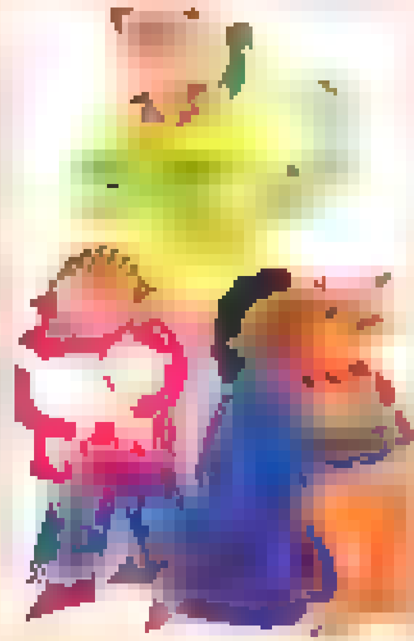
By Sarah Burke







Pets Love Amy



Pet Loss and Grief Recovery



Little Paws Big Adventures



Berkeley Humane









Bone Appetit

The latest trend in pet beverages is hair of the dog — for dogs.

By Anna Pulley

PET EVENTS

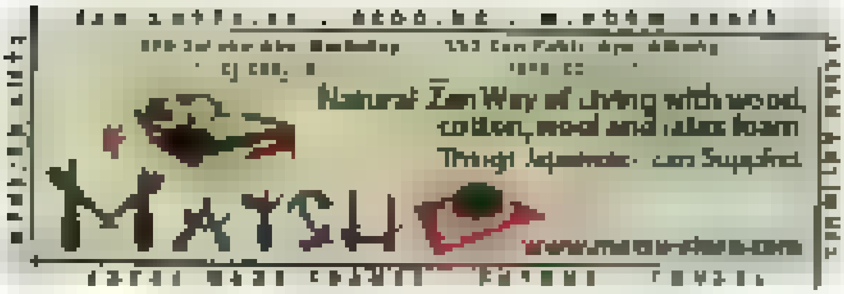
More Listings Online



The Stranger Next Door

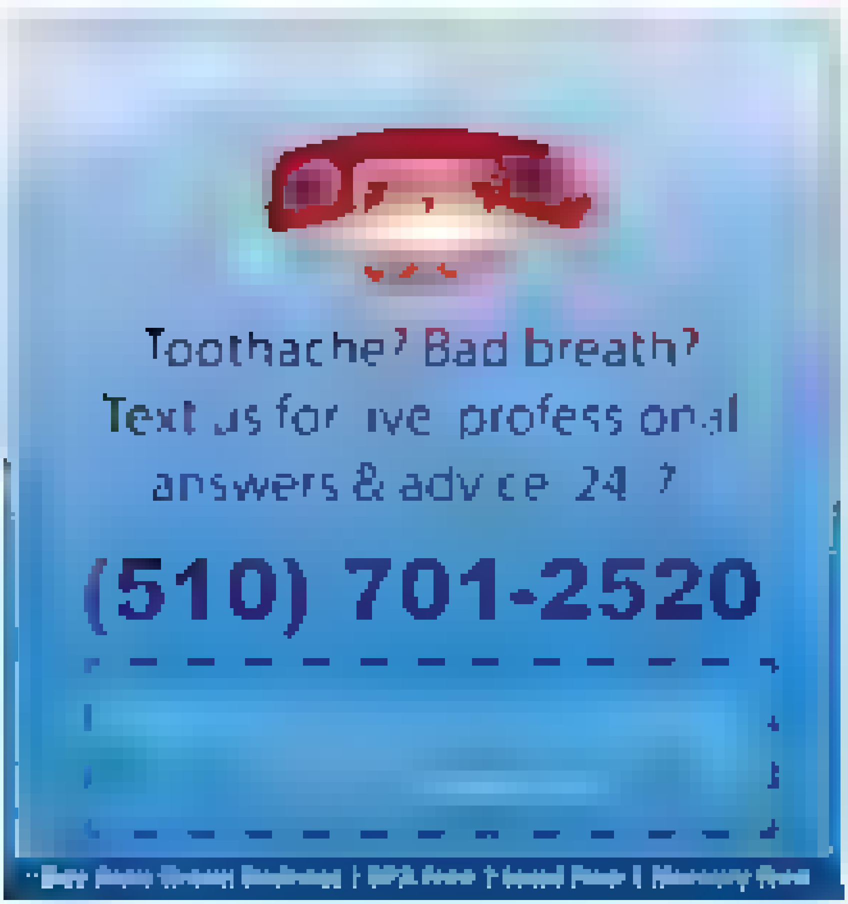
Last week, two artists set up a video chat portal between Rockridge and East Oakland — then told no one.

By Sarah Burke


Natural Zen Way of living with wood, cotton, wool and latex foam
MATSU


X's AND O's
(A Football Love Story)
Berkeley Rep


CHOP
Salon
THURSDAYS BLOW OUTS $22
NEW CLIENT SPECIAL


Toothache? Bad breath?
(510) 701-2520

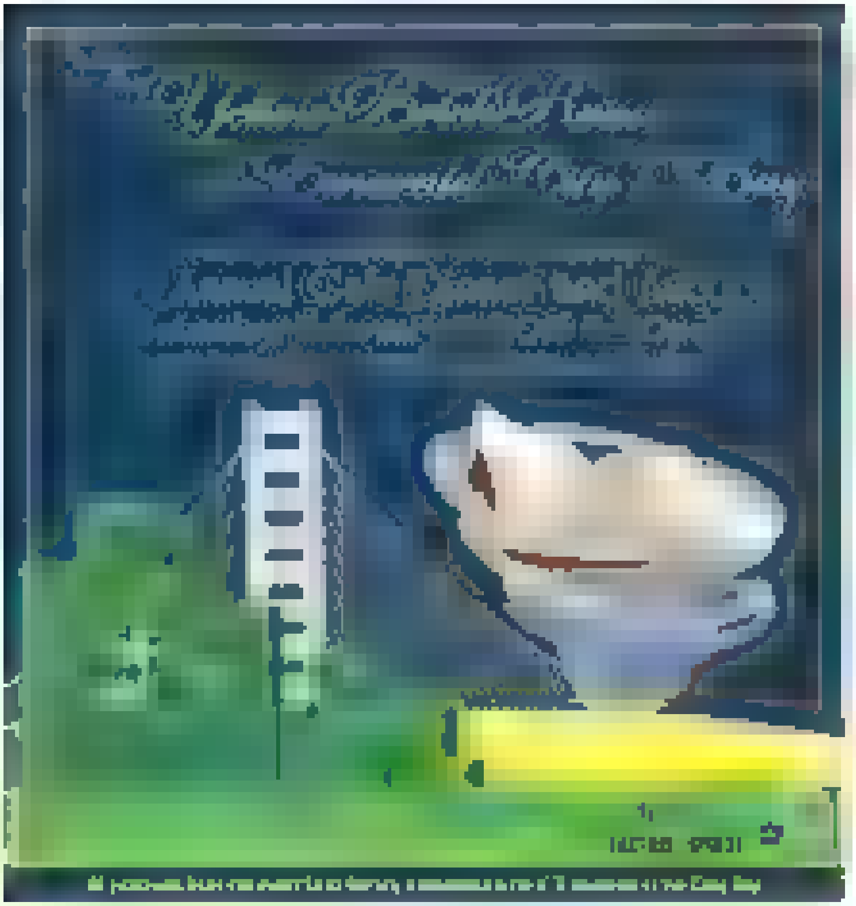

JUST PET ME

EVENTS

Super Bowl 2015 at The New Parkway









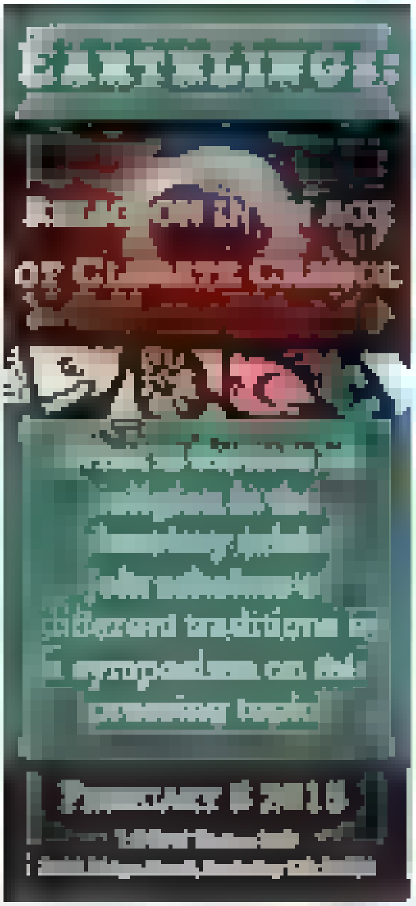


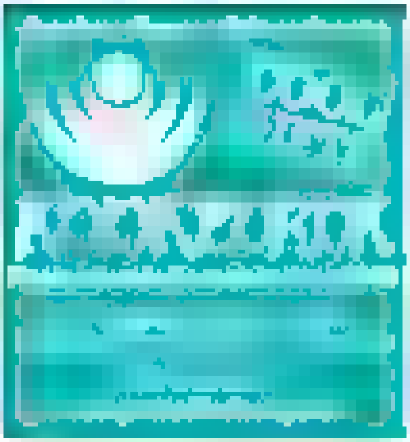


Everyone
deserves
a bra that
FITS


SF BEER WEEK
THE Brewing of BEER seen through the PINBALL
Drink and Play
3-8 PM
FEBRUARY 8TH
HOMEBREWS–NANOBREWS–MICROBREWS
PACIFIC PINBALL MUSEUM







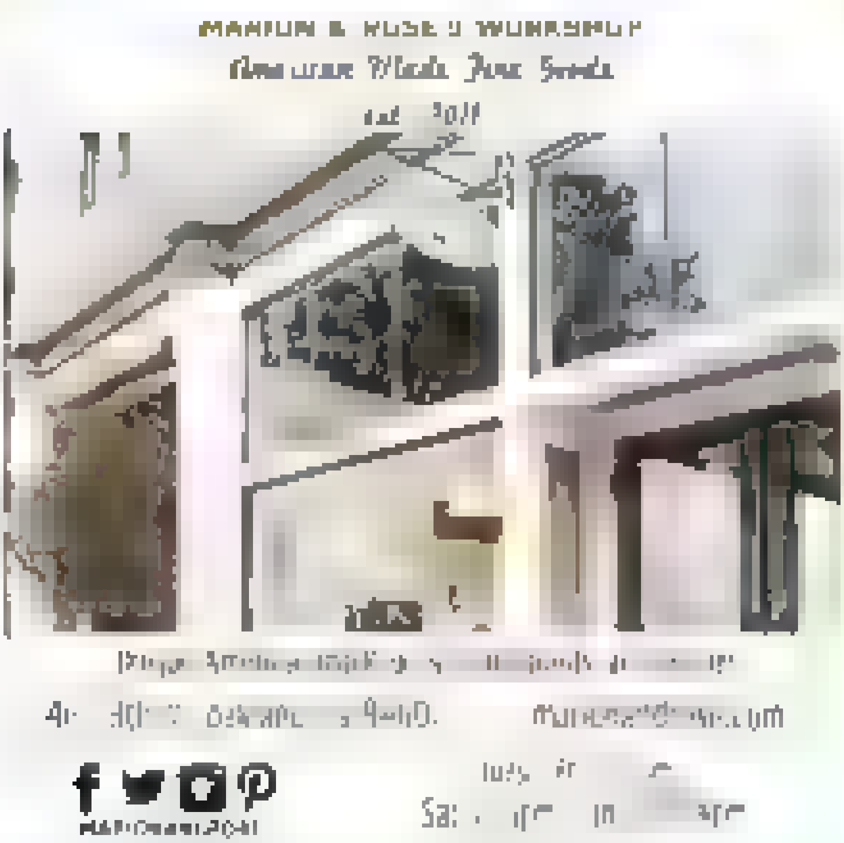


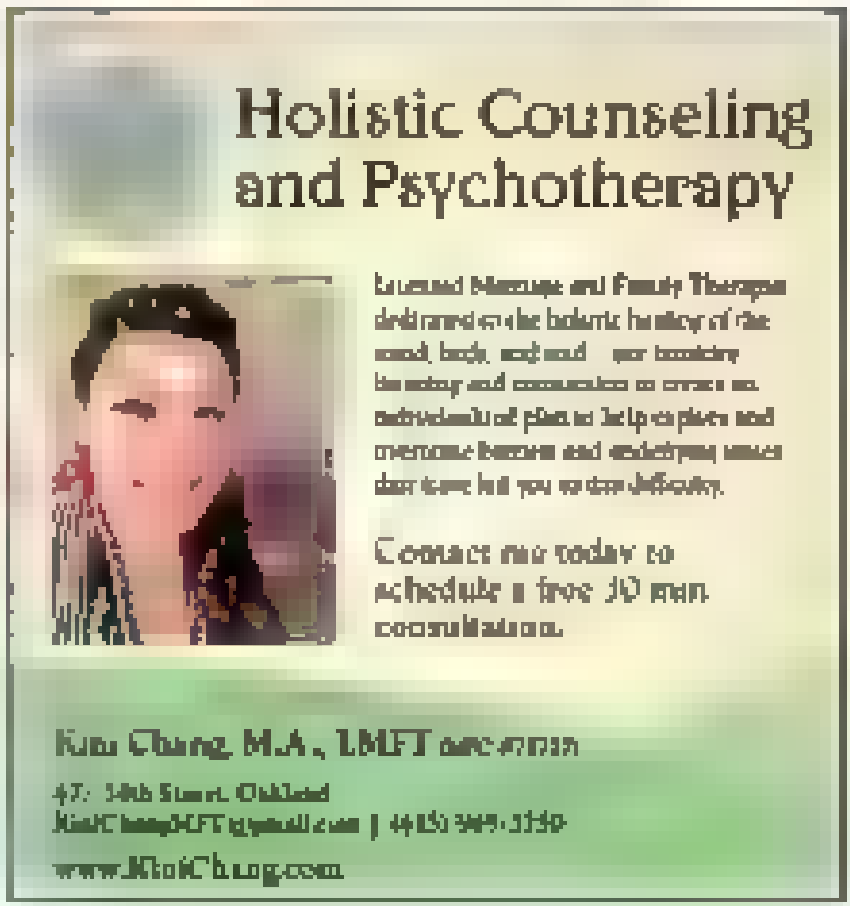


ART


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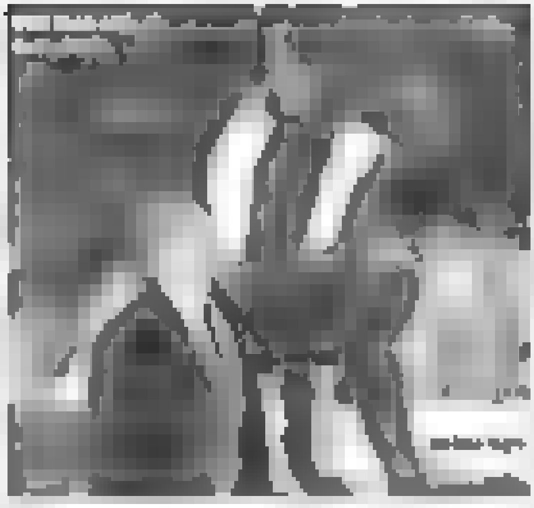
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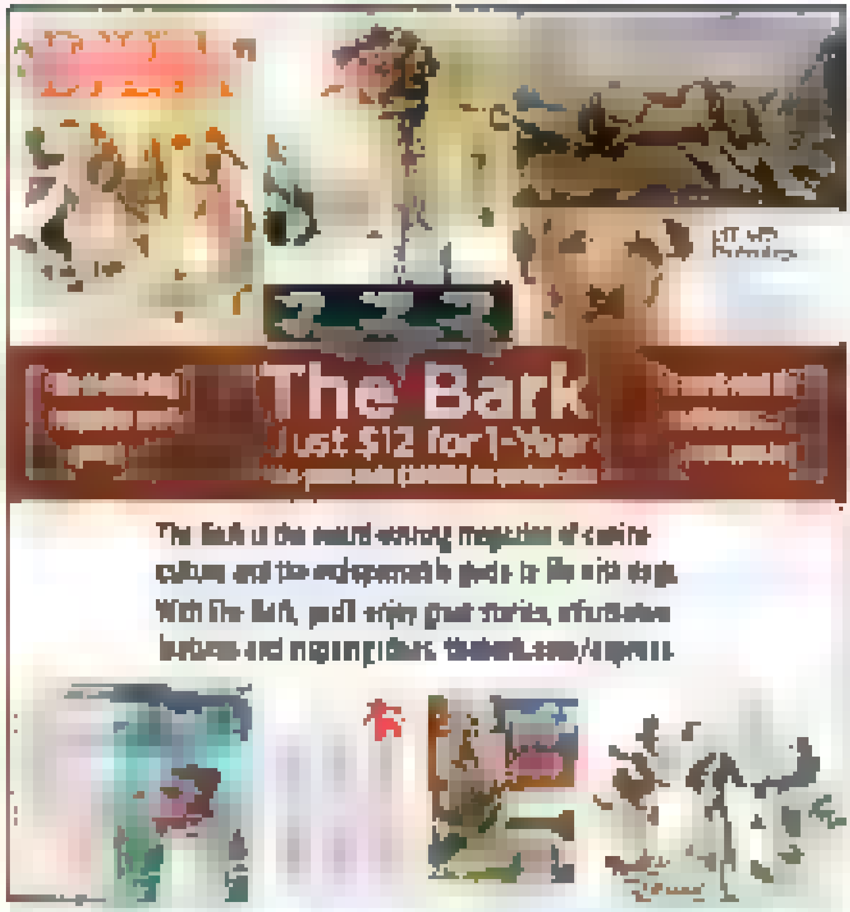
THEATER DANCE

More Listings Online

Barefoot in the Park




Fertile
Ground


The Bark
Just $12 for 1-Year



BOOKS

Matt Fraction and Michael ...







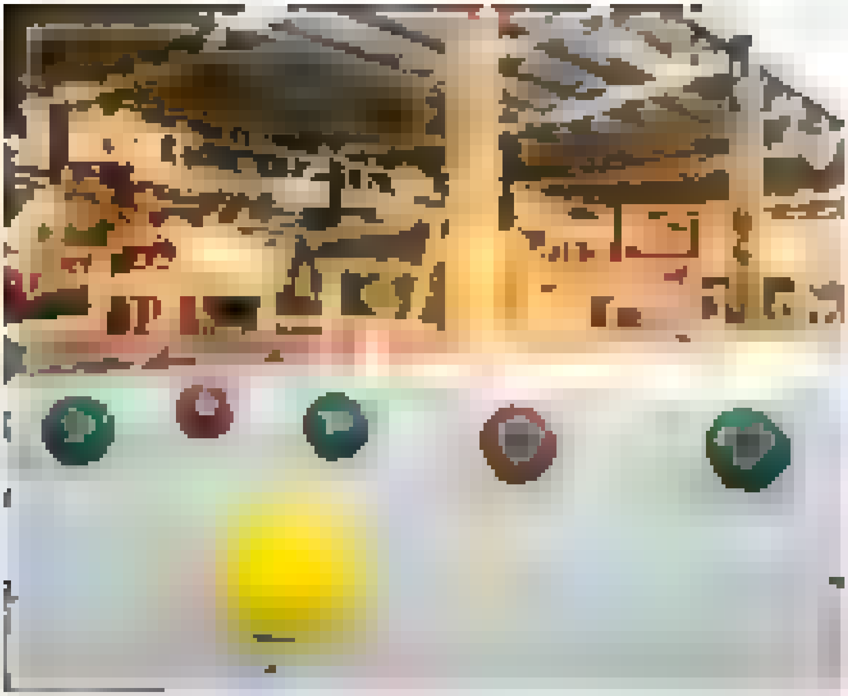




Walking the Plank

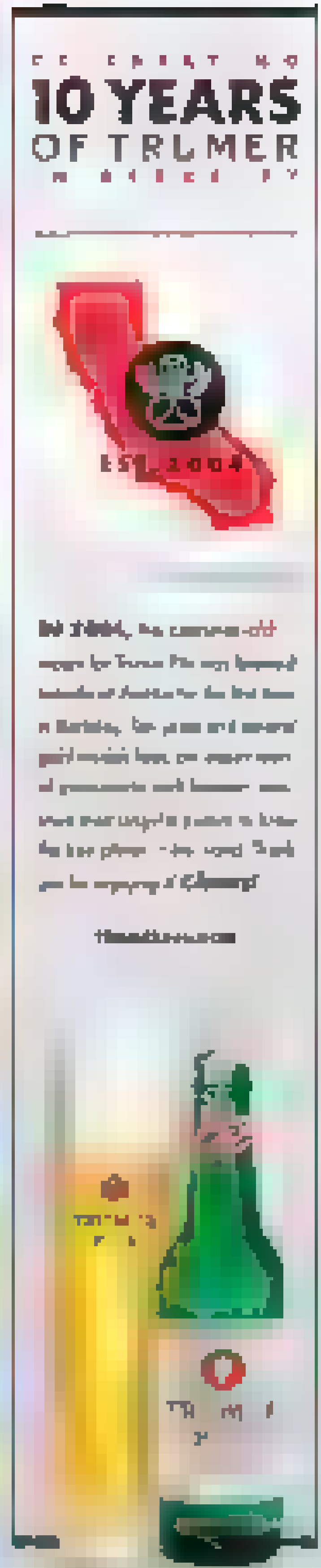
Plank

Sample Menu




POUTINERIE




10 YEARS
OF TRUMER



The Bay Area's New Country Music Hub

Stuffed burgers and line dancing in the Jack London district. Plus, three quick mini-reviews.

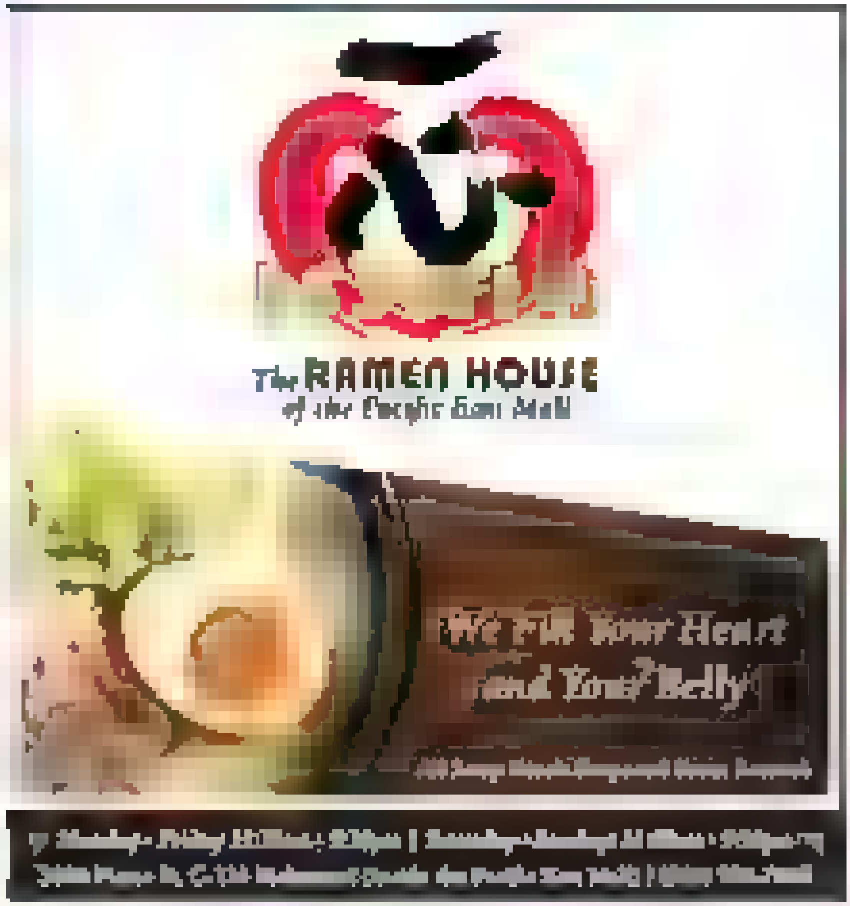
By Luke Tsai

Leftovers






EXTREME DELIVERY


The RAMEN HOUSE
We Fill Your Heart
and Your Belly!


THE STAR
KITCHEN TO COUCH
The Star
Delivers!
Limited hours only









RESTAURANTS

Restaurants in the Jack London district

Ben's Restaurant

Bocanova

Chop Bar

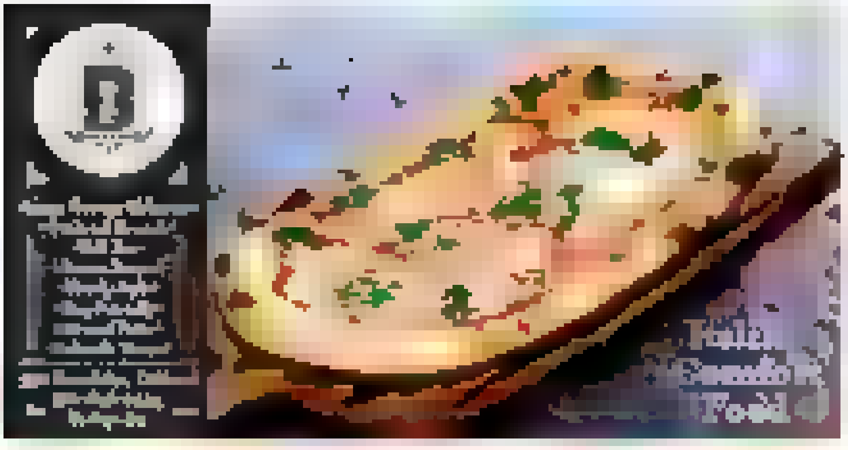
Dragon Gate Bar and Grille

Encuentro

Fat Lady Restaurant

The Forge

La Furia Chalaca







Farm Burger

House of Chicken and Waffles

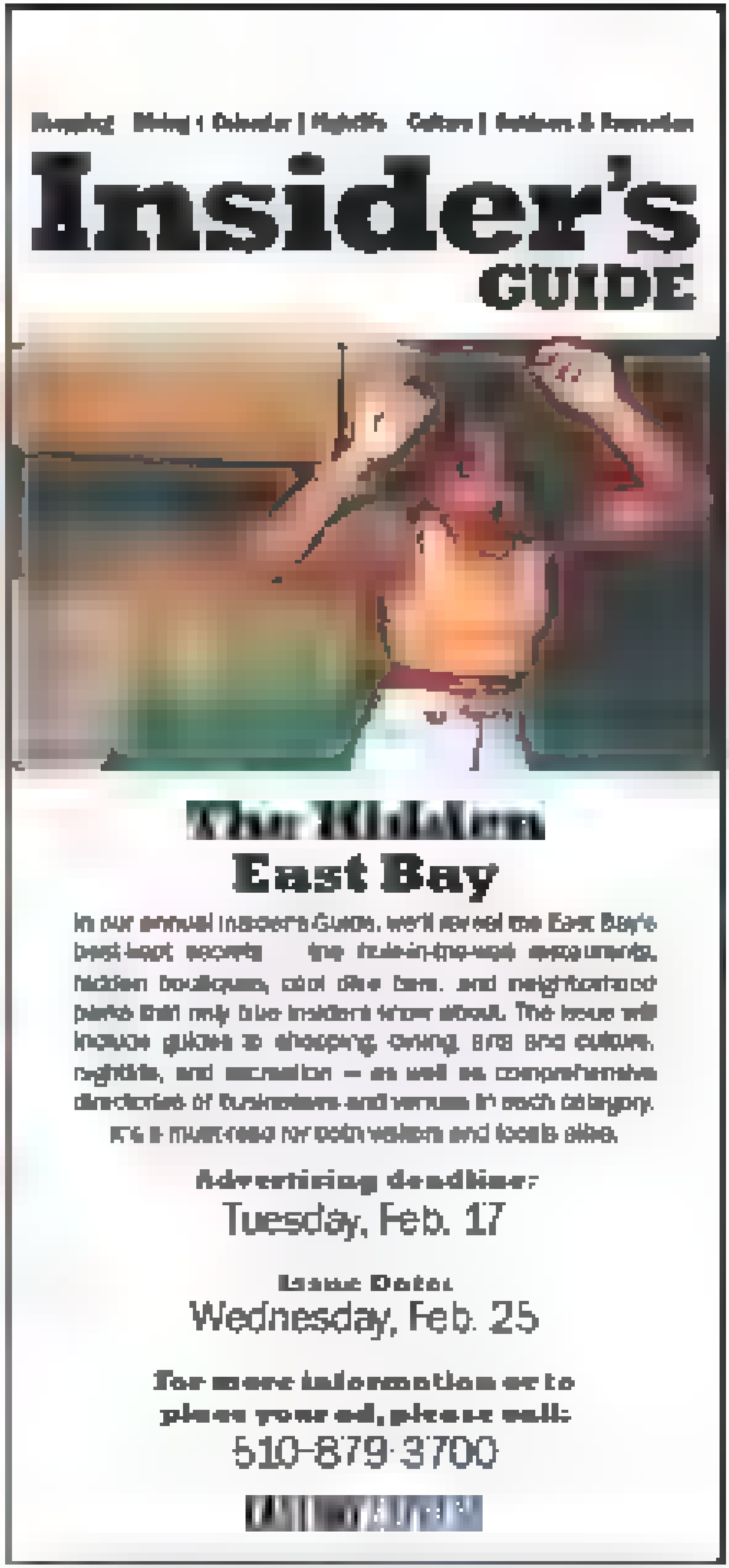
Jack's Oyster Bar & Fish House

Quinn's Lighthouse

Lungomare


WEEKEND SOUL BRUNCH
Saturdays & Sundays
10:30am - 2:30pm
Catfish Benedicts
Shrimp & Grits
Biscuits & Gravy
2221 BROADWAY @ W GRAND


Celebrating five years of deliciousness in Oakland!
encuentro
Jack London Square, Oakland


Insider's
GUIDE
East Bay
Advertising deadline:
Tuesday, Feb. 17
Issue Date:
Wednesday, Feb. 25
For more information or to place your ad, please call:
510-879-3700

DINING GUIDE

The 30-Day Vegan Challenge Book Launch Party



The French Have a Word for It



Two Days, One Night

Mommy

MOVIES THEATERS

OPENING

ONGOING

Showtimes Online



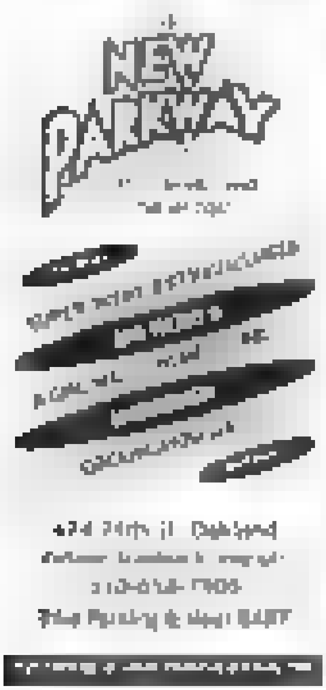
Wild



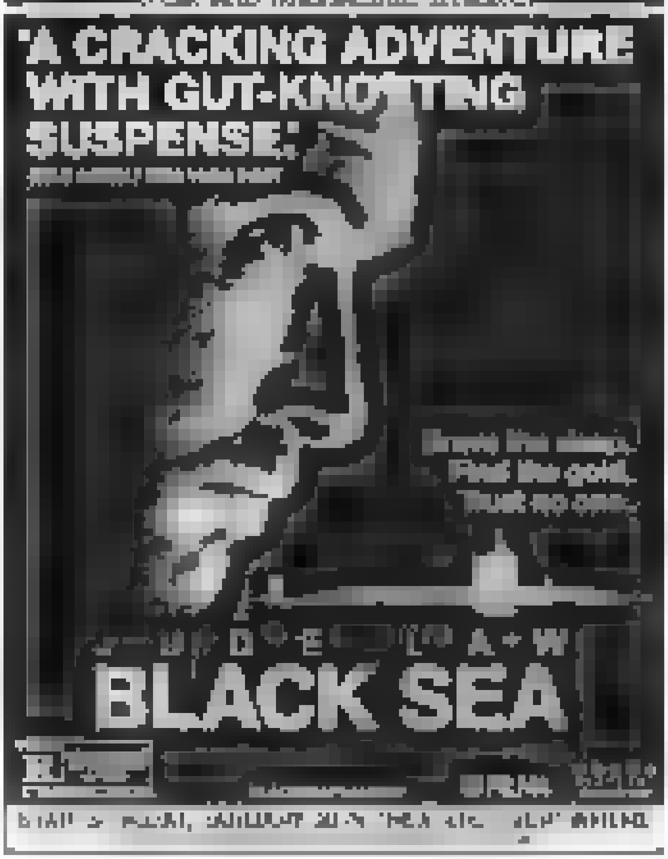
4
M^r T U R N E R
NOW PLAYING



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"THIS SEASON'S ANIMATED MASTERPIECE!"
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NEW PARKWAY



"A CRACKING ADVENTURE WITH GUT-KNOTTING SUSPENSE."
Brave the deep.
Find the gold.
Trust no one.
BLACK SEA

M T

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

Hardcore Humor

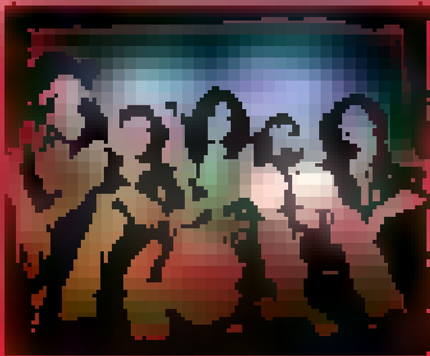


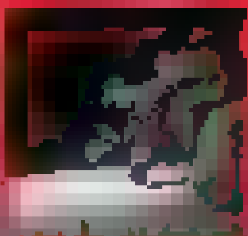




PanaBay Pride

























CONCERTS CLUBS

THURSDAY 29

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

FRIDAY 30

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SATURDAY 31



FOX
OAKLAND
Widespread Panic
JENNY LEWIS
SUFJAN STEVENS
ON SALE FRIDAY
DR. DOG
FEBRUARY 12TH
IRATION
Gov't Mule

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SUNDAY 1

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae,

& Reggaetón

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

MONDAY 2

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge,

VENUE DIRECTORY EAST BAY



Tuesday 3

All Ages

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Wednesday 4

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

More Listings Online

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Kyoto



Lucinda Williams

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

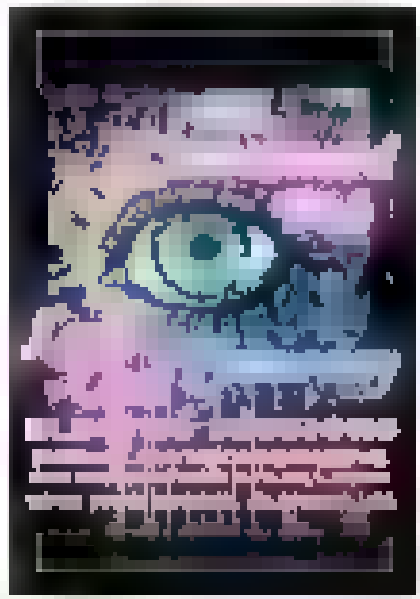
Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop







DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 29

FRIDAY 30

SATURDAY 31

SUNDAY 1

MONDAY 2

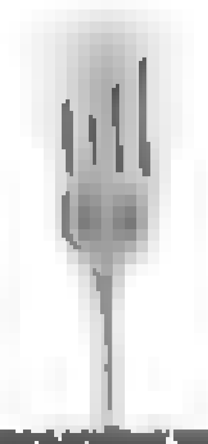
TUESDAY 3

WEDNESDAY 4

It's Not Okay, OkCupid



What The





Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny



Coming Clean

A Dildo-lemma and getting into the swing of things.

By Dan Savage











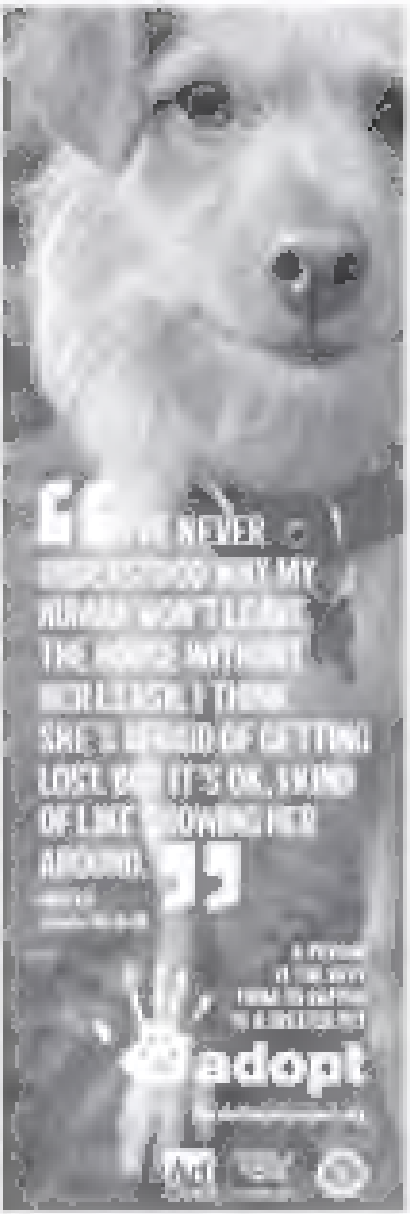
EAST BAY EXPRESS

Classifieds

Contact Us:

Online:

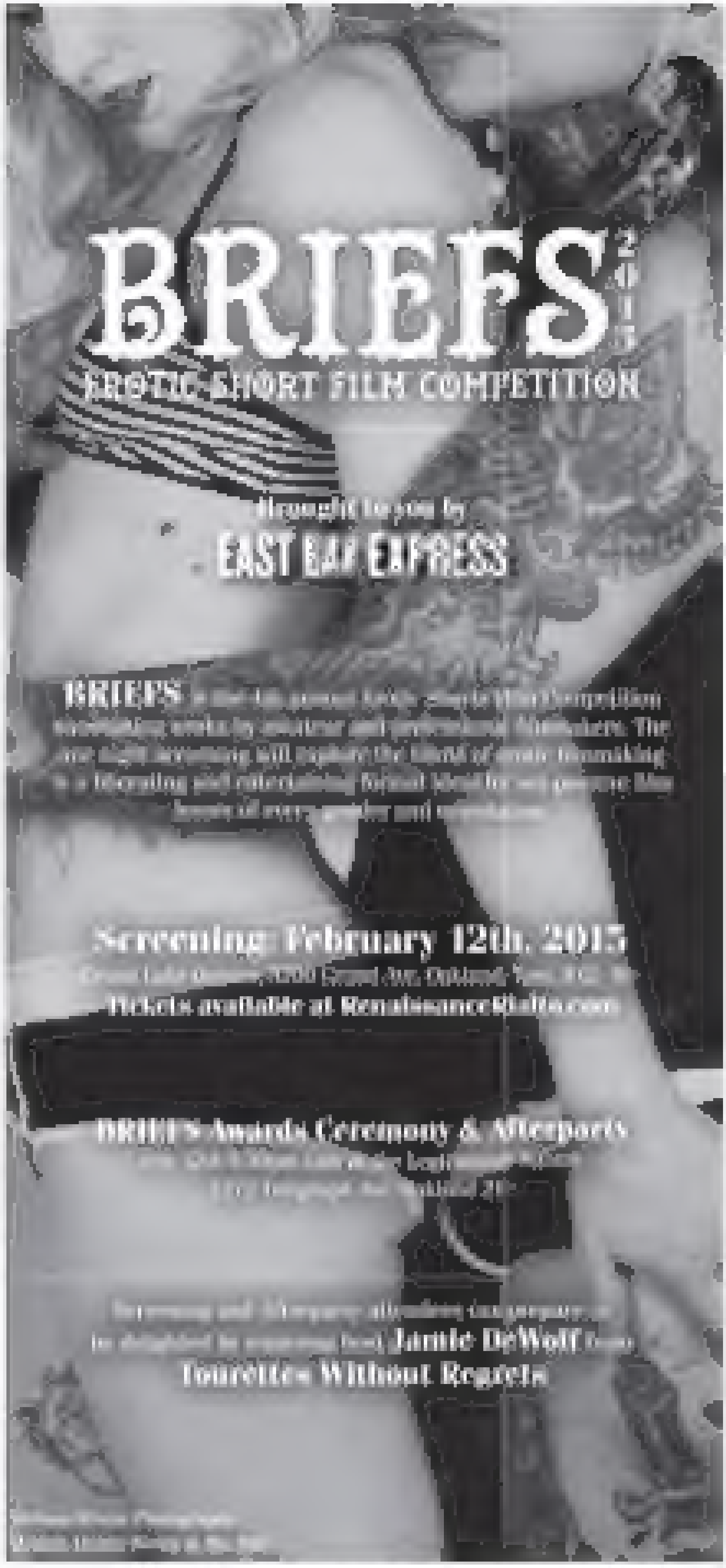
Ad Deadline:



adopt



DJ DINOSAURS



BRIEFS 2015
EROTIC SHORT FILM COMPETITION
Brought to you by
EAST BAY EXPRESS
Screening: February 12th, 2015
BRIEFS Awards Ceremony & Afterparty
Jamie DeWolf
Tourettes Without Regrets